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**FEDERAL FUNDS PRESENTED FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING
USDA Rural Development Grant Awarded to Imperial Calcasieu Resource
Conservation and Development Council, Inc.**

JENNINGS, August 10, 2005 – Michael B. Taylor, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Louisiana, presented the Imperial Calcasieu Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Inc., \$75,000 in Rural Business Enterprise Grant funds today. These funds will be used to provide technical assistance and training workshops to entrepreneurs and managers in rural Jefferson Davis Parish.

Improving area economic activity is a primary concern for the Imperial Calcasieu RC&D Council. “Small businesses and entrepreneurs are the backbone of our economy,” said Mike Perry, Imperial Calcasieu RC&D Coordinator. “Our council has successfully assisted over 1,600 entrepreneurs—and today’s funding will allow us to assist many more.”

“The Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program helps organizations such as Imperial Calcasieu RC&D support the development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas,” said Taylor. “Through this program, USDA Rural Development is expanding economic opportunities in rural Louisiana.”

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The Louisiana USDA Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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